

HB 808 with HCA 1 -- PALLIATIVE CARE

SPONSOR: Cornejo

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments by Consent" by the Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Select Committee on Rules by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill establishes the Missouri Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Council within the Department of Health and Senior Services to be a palliative care consumer and professional information and education program to improve quality and delivery of patient-centered and family-focused care in Missouri. On or before December 1, 2015, the following members must be appointed to the council:

- (1) Two members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate;
- (2) Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- (3) Two board-certified hospice and palliative medicine physicians licensed in Missouri appointed by the Governor;
- (4) Two certified hospice and palliative nurses licensed in Missouri appointed by the Governor;
- (5) A certified hospice and palliative social worker appointed by the Governor;
- (6) A patient and family caregiver advocate representative appointed by the Governor; and
- (7) A spiritual professional with experience in palliative care and health care appointed by the Governor.

The council members must serve for a term of three years without compensation, but, subject to appropriations, must be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as members of the council. The council must consult with and advise the department on matters related to the establishment, maintenance, operation, and outcomes evaluation of palliative care initiatives in Missouri. The council must submit an annual report to the General Assembly that includes an assessment of the availability of palliative care in Missouri for patients at early stages of serious disease and an analysis of barriers to greater access to palliative care.

The bill establishes the Palliative Care Consumer and Professional Information and Education Program within the department, with the purpose of maximizing the effectiveness of palliative care in Missouri by ensuring that comprehensive and accurate information and education about palliative care is available to the public, health care providers, and health care facilities. The department must publish on its website information and resources, including links to external resources, about palliative care, including specified information.

The bill encourages each hospital in Missouri to have a palliative care presence on its Intranet or Internet website and the palliative care presence must, at a minimum, provide a link to gold-standard organizations, including but not limited to the Institute of Medicine, the Center to Advance Palliative Care, the Supportive Care Coalition, the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, and the National Institute on Aging. Each hospital in Missouri is encouraged to have patient education information about palliative care available for distribution to patients.

The department may develop and implement other initiatives regarding palliative care services and education that the department determines may further the purposes of these provisions. The department must consult with the council in implementing the provisions of the bill.

HCA 1: Removes the requirement that a hospital Intranet or Internet website contain specified information

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that there are persistent gaps in care for individuals near the end of their life that require urgent attention from numerous stakeholder groups. Every medical organization now recognizes that management of illness includes early management, not just at end of life. Palliative care improves the quality of life for patients and families of patients who are experiencing pain and other symptoms and side effects associated with chronic disease. The Missouri Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Council can help to answer important questions, including how effective current policies and procedures are and what is needed to better serve patients' desires.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Cornejo; Gary Ratkin; Erin Kirwan; Jane Moore, Missouri Hospice & Palliative Care Association; BJC Health Care Systems; American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network; SSM Health Care; and Missouri Hospital Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.